CLAIMS:

1. A method of printing comprising the steps of

loading an ink-jet printer with an ink-jet receiver comprising a voided polymer ink-receiving layer;

printing an image onto the ink-jet receiver using said printer to generate a print; and

applying pressure and/or heat to the print thereby improving the surface properties.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the application of pressure and/or heat to the print reduces the roughness and increases the gloss of the surface of the print.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the voided polymer ink-receiving layer is a foamed polymer ink-receiving layer.

4. A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the polymer is a hydrophilic polymer.

5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the polymer is selected from polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyethylene oxide (PEO), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and gelatin.

6. A method as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the ink-jet receiver is obtainable by coating a support with a solution comprising a hydrophilic polymer and a blowing agent; and, either prior to or after the step of coating said support, interacting with said solution, to cause said blowing agent to generate gas bubbles within the solution causing foaming of said hydrophilic polymer.

7. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the step of interacting with the solution is performed after coating of the solution onto the support and comprises applying heat to said solution.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein the proportion by weight of blowing agent to polymer is form about 10% to about 60%.

9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the application of pressure and/or heat to the print is carried out using a fusing device.

10. An ink-jet print obtainable by the method of any one of Claims 1 to 9.

11. Use of a fusing device to improve the surface properties and/or image properties of an ink-jet print formed on an ink-jet receiver comprising a foamed polymer ink-receiving layer by applying heat and/or pressure to the surface of said print.